

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /059 W

----- 116939

R 060417Z JAN 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2660

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0003

KUWAIT PLEASE POUCH BEIRUT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: JALLOUD, HABASH, JABRIL VISIT IRAQ

1. POLITICAL SPECULATION IN BAGHDAD THIS WEEK CENTERED ON THE ONE-DAY VISIT OF LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALLOUD AND PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN LEADERS GEORGE HABASH AND AHMED JABRIL. ALL THREE ARRIVED IN BAGHDAD ON DEC 30 AND LEFT DEC 31. AS USUAL WITH VIP VISITORS, THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS WAS A CLOSELY HELD SECRET.

2. MOST OBSERVERS ASSUMED THAT THE TALKS WERE CONNECTED WITH THE TERRORIST OPERATION AGAINST THE OPEC MINISTERS. IN VIEW OF  
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BAGHDAD'S OBVIOUS EMBARRASSMENT AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS, IT WOULD

SEEM PROBABLE THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND THE "REJECTIONIST" TERRORIST LEADERS ATTEMPTED TO WORK OUT SOME NEW RULES OF THE GAME FOR THE REJECTIONIST FRONT. THERE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN AN EFFORT BY THE LIBYANS OR THE TERRORIST LEADERS TO DENY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPEC OPERATION AND TO PERSUADE THE GOI TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR AT LEAST SOME OF THE REJECTIONIST ORGANIZATIONS.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD IMPRESSION THAT IRAQI REGIME BECOMING LESS INTERESTED IN ACTIVE SUPPORT OF REJECTIONIST GROUPS AS

THEIR INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENTS ASSUMES INCREASING IMPORTANCE AS THEIR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. OPEC INCIDENT MAY FURTHER LIMIT THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR REJECTIONIST ACTIVITY. IRAQIS STILL

USING REJECTIONIST LINE TO ATTACK RIVAL SYRIAN REGIME, BUT IF THEY WERE SERIOUSLY PURSUING THEIR REJECTIONIST POLICY THEY WOULD ALSO ATTACK THE EGYPTIANS WHO HAVE GONE CONSIDERABLY FURTHER IN FORMALIZING THEIR MODUS VIVENDI WITH ISRAEL THAN SYRIANS. IN FACT, IRAQIS HAVE REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC CRITICISM OF SADAT OR EGYPTIAN REGIME AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD SEEMS QUITE PLEASED WITH CURRENT STATE OF EGYPTIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS. OPEC TERRORIST EPISODE MAY HAVE PROVIDED IRAQIS WITH EXCUSE TO REDUCE FURTHER THEIR SUPPORT FOR REJECTIONIST ORGANIZATIONS. IF SO, IRAQI REGIME WILL PROBABLY NOT ADMIT IT, EVEN TO THEIR MORE CONSERVATIVE ARAB BROTHERS.

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**TAGS:** PFOR, IZ, (JALLUD, ABD AL-SALAM), (JABRIL, AHMAD), (HABASH, GEORGE)  
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